

MAB 060  
2 February 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau -- January 1981

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The allegedly forced merger between Libya and Chad in the aftermath of President Goukouni's victory over Former Defense Minister Habre's FAN and the political, diplomatic and military reactions to this merger were the main focus of bureau monitoring efforts during the month. The major African event dealing with the merger was the informal summit held in Lome, Togo, on 13 and 14 January. For this meeting, the bureau placed Lome Domestic Service on open watch on both days, although the radio's reportage proved to be very circumspect. All regularly scheduled Lagos Domestic Service newscasts were also covered with much better results. AFP French also provided valuable reports from its correspondents at the meeting. Furthermore, after the meeting, the CAR's Dacko, Nigeria's Shagari, Sierra Leone's Stephens, Guinea's Sekou Toure, Benin's Kerekou and Gabon's Bongo all gave major statements on the situation which were processed from the respective countries' radios. In addition, the bureau provided some 20 French translations on the issue to the Ivory Coast Government, which was highly concerned about the merger. These translations were of items not only from the bureau's own file but also from London, Nicosia and Jordan bureaus, including the text of the 6 January Libya-Chad communique, the 14 January diatribe by Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi and the more cautious 16 January statement by Libyan Foreign Minister At-Turayki after the Lome meeting.

2. On 6 January, the bureau noticed an item from Kinshasa Domestic Service monitored by BBC's East Africa Unit and filed by London Bureau. Although Kinshasa Radio had been

covered by Kaduna Bureau, Abidjan had never been able to hear it with sufficiently good reception to provide regular coverage. Asked for details, BBC advised the station had been heard at 15245 KHz, a frequency on which it had not been heard for at least 2 years. Abidjan's cruising efforts showed the station could be monitored with fair reception during the day, although it deteriorated at night. The bureau assumed regular coverage of the major newscasts of the day, 0600, 1200 and 1800 GMT. Among the first items filed from the radio were reports on continuing developments in the arrest of legislators accused of disloyalty to Mobutu as well as Zairian rebuttals to Western reports of civil disturbances resulting from these arrests. Comparison showed that the radio provided more timely reporting than the Zairian news agency, AZAP, although AZAP furnished more details. During the month, more than 3,000 words were filed from the radio.

#### B. Communications

The bureau's main communications circuit through Skylink suffered a major outage at the end of the month which lasted for three and a half days. An equipment failure at TCU was the cause of the outage. During the outage, the bureau relied on telex for sending and receiving priority traffic, while routine traffic was sent via the embassy's HF backup link with Monrovia. However, since bureau communications systems interface directly only with the Skylink, use of the HF backup required that tapes be driven down to the embassy, a mode of operation reminiscent of the bureau's first year before Skylink and the connecting microwave were installed.

## II. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

1. French/English monitor [redacted] converted from STAT full-time to part-time employment during the month. [redacted] STAT had intended to resign for health and family reasons, but she felt that she could continue on a part-time basis if this proved feasible for the bureau. As the mainstay of the bureau's reverse translation work for the Ivorian Foreign Ministry, the new arrangement is expected to be mutually beneficial.

2: At a ceremony in the Ambassador's office on 21 January, bureau drivers [redacted] STAT were presented safe driving awards for 1980 by Charge' d'affaires Gerald Friedman.

3. Long-standing bureau efforts to recruit a Spanish/Portuguese monitor began to show some promise of success during the month when an applicant tested very well in French, Spanish and English and demonstrated a reading knowledge of Portuguese. Arrangements were made for tutoring to upgrade the candidate's Portuguese to voice capability, but at that point further processing for her employment had to be suspended because of the new administration's freeze on federal civilian employment.

B. Buildings and Grounds

The Onan Autotransfer switch installation for switching from commercial power to the emergency generator was completed early in January. With this installation it is no longer necessary for the Editor to start and stop the generator. Switch-over time has also been reduced to a few seconds, a reaction time the editors were never able to achieve with manual starting and switching of the generator.

III. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Bureau technician [redacted] gave invaluable assistance STAT  
to the embassy telephone technician in repairing the telephone system  
after an outage of three days. The problem was traced to a short  
circuit.

[redacted] STAT

Chief, Abidjan Bureau

ATTACHMENTS:

Monthly Production Report  
Bureau Coverage Report

## ABIDJAN BUREAU

## MONTHLY PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JAN 1981

1. COVERAGE (Priority 1 and 2)
  - a. Average daily hours of voice - 12.5
  - b. Average daily hours of press service - 47
  - c. Average daily hours of press - 4  
(1/2 hour per paper)
2. Production (English)
  - a. Average daily voice wordage 1,011
  - b. Average daily press service wordage 637
  - c. Average daily newspapers 4
3. Production (French)
  - a. Average daily voice wordage 730
  - b. Average daily press service wordage 773
  - c. Average daily newspapers 37
4. Total Average Daily Publishable Wordage (2 plus 3) 3,192
5. Total daily average wordage of multipaper, multilanguage 267  
and/or multisource roundups, program summaries filed as  
a continuing requirement; commentary lists; cruising  
messages: 267
6. Total Daily Average Filed wordage (4 plus 5) 3,459
7. Total number of ETG Abstracts for Month NA
8. Total number of items for month 398